Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for screening for compounds useful for the treatment or amelioration of preeclampsia and/or the symptoms thereof comprising:

inducing preeclampsia in ~~an~~ a murine animal with a BPH/5 phenotype;

administering a test compound to the murine animal; and

monitoring the murine animal for amelioration or elimination of

preeclampsia or its symptoms, wherein amelioration or elimination of preeclampsia or its

symptoms in the murine animal indicates usefulness of the compound for the treatment of

preeclampsia.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the mouse is a BPH/5 mouse.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein preeclampsia is induced by mating the BPH/5 mouse with another mouse such that the BPH/5 mouse becomes pregnant.

Claim 5 (Original): A method for screening for compounds useful for the treatment of preeclampsia comprising:

mating a BPH/5 mouse with another mouse such that the BPH/5 mouse becomes pregnant;

administering a test compound to the pregnant BPH/5 mouse; and

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monitoring the pregnant BPH/5 mouse for amelioration or elimination of preeclampsia, wherein

amelioration or elimination of preeclampsia in the pregnant BPH/5 mouse indicates

usefulness of the compound for the treatment of preeclampsia.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn):   A method of detecting placental abnormalities in a animal suffering from

preeclampsia comprising:

inducing preeclampsia in an animal having a BPH/5 phenotype; and

monitoring the expression of a gene product wherein a downregulation of expression of the gene

is indicative of impaired placental development associated with preeclampsia.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn):   The method of claim 6 wherein said gene is selected from the group

consisting of Placental Lactogen (PL) 1, Placental Lactogen (PL) 2, Insulin-like Growth Factor 2,

Proliferin (PRF), Proliferin-related protein (Prp), VEGF, sFlt-1, and Adrenomedulin.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn):   The method of claim 7, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn):   The method of claim 8, wherein the mouse is BPH/5 mouse.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn):   A method of producing an animal that exhibits symptoms of

preeclampsia comprising:

inducing pregnancy in an BPH/5 animal;

evaluating the presence pathological features characterized by placental morphological

abnormalities, downregulation of genes associated with placental angiogenesis, and a

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decrease in uterine blood flow, whereby these features is indicative of the animal having

preeclampsia relative to a control animal.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn):   The method of claim 10, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn):   The method of claim 11, wherein the mouse is BPH/5 mouse.

Claim 13 (Currently amended):   A method of screening a candidate compound for

alleviating preeclampsia, said method comprising:

inducing preeclampsia in ~~an~~ a murine animal;

administering a compound to said murine animal; and

comparing the induced preeclampsia condition in said murine animal with the induced

preeclampsia condition in a control murine animal that did not receive said candidate

compound, wherein an amelioration or elimination in the preeclampsia condition of the

treated murine animal is indicative of the alleviating activity of said candidate compound.

Claim 14 (Original):   The method of claim 13, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 15 (Original):   The method of claim 14, wherein the mouse is BPH/5 mouse.

Claim 16 (Currently amended):   A method of screening a candidate compound for the

prevention of preeclampsia, said method comprising:

administering a compound to ~~an~~ a murine animal with a BPH/5 phenotype;

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inducing pregnancy in ~~an~~ a murine animal; and

comparing the pregnant condition in said murine animal with said candidate agent with a

pregnant control BPH/5 exhibiting preeclampsia, wherein the prevention or reduction of

the affects of the preeclampsia condition of the treated murine animal is indicative of the

alleviating activity of said candidate compound.

Claim 17 (Currently amended):   A method of screening a candidate compound for

alleviating the symptoms of preeclampsia, said method comprising:

inducing preeclampsia in a BPH/5 phenotype murine animal;

administering a compound to said murine animal; and

comparing the induced preeclampsia condition in said murine animal with the induced

preeclampsia condition in a control murine animal that did not receive said candidate

compound, wherein an amelioration or elimination in the preeclampsia condition of the

treated murine animal is indicative of the alleviating activity of said candidate compound.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein said animal is a mouse.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said animal is a BPH/5 mouse.

Claim 20 (Currently amended):   ~~An~~ A murine animal model for identifying agents which

alleviate the symptoms of, treat, reduce the severity of, or prevent preeclampsia comprising:

a pregnant BPH/5 mouse, and

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an agent suspected of alleviate the symptoms of, treat, reduce the severity of or prevent

preeclampsia which has been introduced to said mouse.

Claim 21 (Currently amended):   An A murine animal model produced according to the

method of claim 5.

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